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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 KUWAIT 003946

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KU](#) [KDMR](#)

SUBJECT: KUWAIT MEDIA REACTION, AUGUST 21-24: UN
HEADQUARTERS BOMBING; HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT; US CIVIL
LIBERTIES; ARMITAGE INTERVIEW ON AL-JAZEERA; TERRORISM

[1](#). SUMMARY: In an interview with Al-Qabas, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison stated that despite the bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad, "we are committed to continuing our mission in Iraq." All papers report increased security around foreign missions in Kuwait in response to the attack in Baghdad.

One newspaper reports that the National Assembly is preparing a response to the State Department's Human Rights Report on Kuwait. One commentator seizes on the recent anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech to rail against the "Zionist lobby and right-wing radical plan to deny civil liberties" to Muslims in the US, and the "failure of the American dream." A National Review Online article praising Kuwait's religious tolerance received coverage in all newspapers.

All newspapers report Deputy Secretary of State Armitage's comments on Al-Jazeera that foreign fighters are infiltrating Iraq from Syria, Saudi Arabia and Iran. END SUMMARY.

[2](#). News Stories: Al-Watan, Al-Rai Al-Aam and Al-Seyassah reported on their August 24 front pages comments made by Deputy Secretary Armitage during a televised interview on Al-Jazeera, highlighting his remarks that foreign fighters are entering Iraq from Syria, Saudi Arabia and Iran.

All newspapers report condemnation by the Council of Ministers (Cabinet) of the "shameful, criminal" attack against the UN headquarters in Baghdad and denounced Israeli brutal acts against the Palestinian people, especially political assassinations.

Al-Qabas reports that according to Minister of Defense, Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, 40 countries have requested permission for their peacekeeping troops en route to Iraq to transit through Kuwait, including Japan.

Kuwaiti security forces will increase their guard around the Kuwait UN headquarters and around foreign embassies in light of the attack on the UN headquarters in Baghdad, according to Al-Watan.

Al-Qabas reports in an August 22 interview with Senator Kay Hutchison that despite the bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad, "we are committed to continuing our mission in Iraq."

Al-Anba reports that the National Assembly's Human Rights Committee is preparing a detailed report to respond to the State Department's Human Rights Report on Kuwait.

All newspapers carried stories summarizing an article from the National Review Online, written by Doug Bandow, and praising religious tolerance in Kuwait.

Al-Anba and Al-Rai Al-Aam reported on August 24 that a female member of the US Air Force was allegedly raped by an Arab waiter in one of the Kuwait's five star hotels.

All newspapers report that Kuwaiti authorities halted an attempt to smuggle 15 kilograms of hashish hidden in a tanker truck from Iraq into Kuwait.

Editorials:

[3](#). Liberal Sami Al-Nesf wrote in independent Al-Anba (8/23): "People who hate Iraq and the Iraqis and want to cause a civil war in Iraq are the ones behind the attack on the UN building in Iraq. Needless to say, it was Saddam and the criminal Baath organization behind the attack."

[4](#). "De Mello and Terrorism"

Dr. Ayed Al-Manna wrote in independent Al-Watan (8/23):
"Terrorists know that the UN is not a part in the war to liberate Iraq. The UN did not issue any resolution for that war. [UN Representative Sergio] De Mello came to Iraq to provide humanitarian assistance for the Iraqi people. Those who attacked De Mello were targeting the organization he represented. They believe that they can force the UN to abandon its mission in Iraq and thus facilitate the return of the oppressor to power."

15. "The 40th Anniversary of Martin Luther [King, Jr.] and the American Dream Disappointment"
Islamist Adel Al-Qassar wrote in independent Al-Qabas (8/24): "Martin Luther [King, Jr.] dreamt of implementing justice and freedom. but today we are experiencing a relapse in civil rights which has led many people to hate the US. The Patriot Act and the Secret Evidence law implemented after the September 11 attacks have caused many worries. The Zionist lobby and right wing radicals planned these measures in order to exclude Arabs and Muslims from the political arena. Is America waiting for a Muslim Martin Luther [King, Jr.]?"

16. Adel Al-Qassar wrote in independent Al-Qabas (8/24): "At the time when the Human Rights Committee of Kuwait's Ministry of Justice is preparing responses to US State Department criticism regarding issues such as women's political rights, we read in the American press that American authorities have fired a Muslim police officer in Philadelphia for wearing a hijab [head scarf] during office hours."

17. "Unsuccessful Efforts to Confront Terrorism"
Dr. Wael Al-Hassawi wrote in independent Al-Rai Al-Aam (8/21): "We are not against measures adopted by countries to counter terrorism, but we are rather against the methods adopted by some countries in the name of fighting terrorism. We believe that these methods will not help root out terrorism, but will rather aggravate the situation. [Instead,] Muslim youth must learn to differentiate between the concept of jihad and terrorism and criminal acts. The governments of Islamic countries must reform their internal systems to prevent their subjects from falling prey to injustice, while striving to enforce Islamic Sharia in the name of containing terrorism."

18. "Where Are We Versus the Zionist Media?"
Bader Al-Ibrahim wrote in independent Al-Qabas (8/21): "Unfortunately, the Zionist media has managed to influence Western public opinion, institutions and governments to such an extent that relevant Western governments did their utmost to establish a Jewish democratic state in Palestine and to help Jews emigrate there. The challenges facing the Arab world are great, and we must form a unified media strategy to penetrate the Zionist media in order to change our image in the Western media."

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